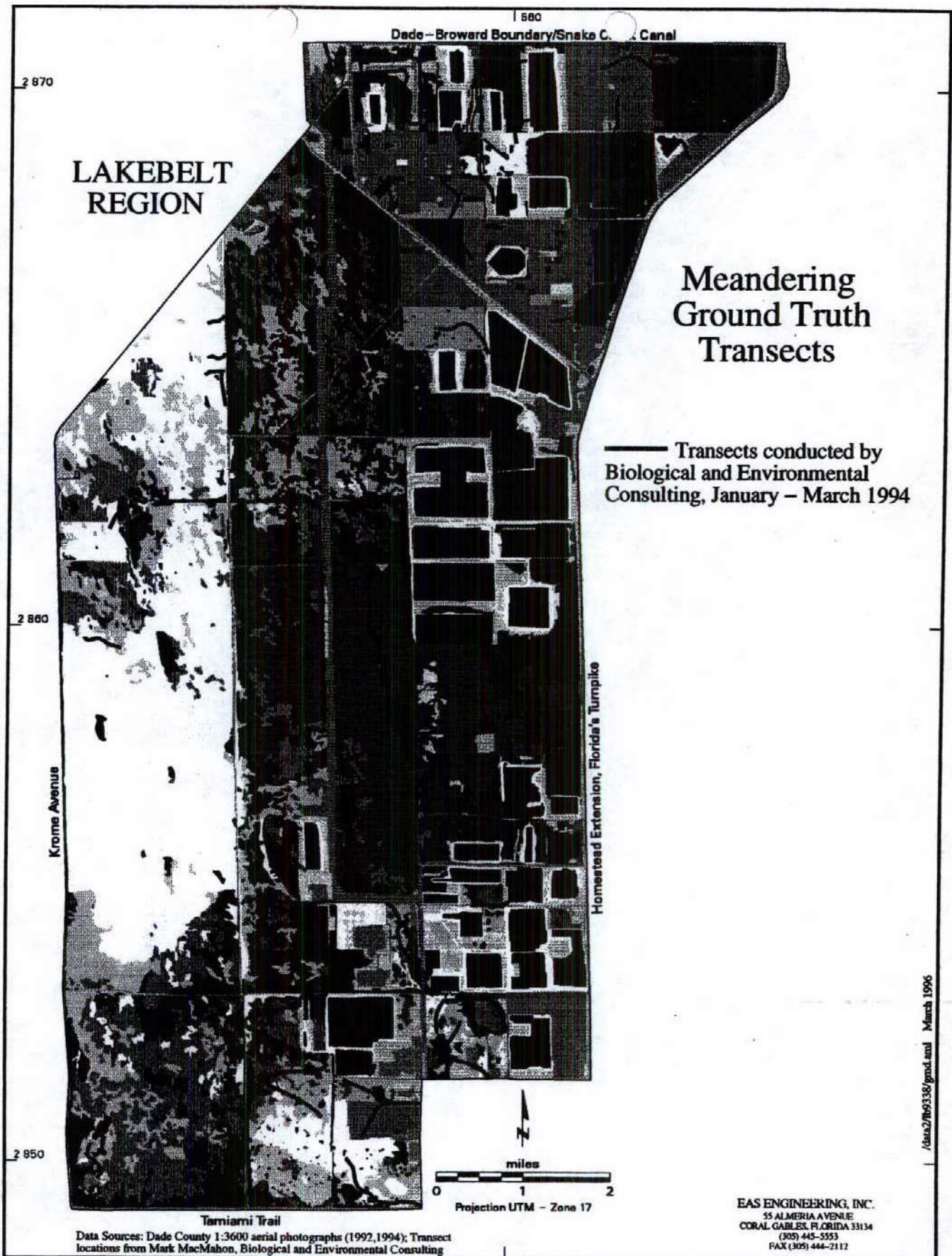


APPENDIX A

Map of ground-truthing Transects



APPENDIX B

Explanation of Discrepancies between EAS and ERG Cover Types

Explanation of inconsistencies between ERG and EAS cover type designations.

During the final stages of this study, it became apparent that in eleven cases, cover type designations assigned by the Everglades Research Group (ERG) to their sampling stations differed from those assigned by EAS Engineering.

These discrepancies result from several factors. EAS, throughout its mapping effort, used a macro-scale approach, while ERG used a micro-scale approach for vegetation mosaics that exist within the study area. EAS used a 0.5 acre resolution threshold, that is, land cover patches smaller than 1/2 acre were not mapped. Another factor for ERG was the inaccessibility of large, contiguous patches of these habitats which occur in the remoter regions of the study area, making it preferable to establish stations in smaller but more readily accessible areas of the various cover types. Another factor is that the base aerial photography was already two years old when the ERG established its stations.

EAS acknowledged from the very beginning of the project that variation would be found within the agreed-upon density categories. It is the vegetation experts' decision where the polygon lines are drawn around the density categories. EAS' decisions were based on extensive ground-truthing of portions of the study area, helicopter overflights of the entire study area, and several QA/QC iterations of the 1992 aerial photography.

The eleven discrepancies between the cover type designations of EAS and ERG were the following:

1. Three cases of P50 (two in 30-53-39 and one 29-52-39) vs P: two of these sites are in the Pennsuco along Krome Avenue, and the third in the Pennsuco near the northwest wellfield canal. In the two sites along Krome Avenue, we mapped this area as P50, which by definition has a wide array of *Melaleuca* densities. ERG no doubt found areas within this that either (1) had no *Melaleuca*, or (2) contained only *Melaleuca* seedlings, and thus were not noticed by the wildlife observers. The site near the northwest wellfield has already been documented to be a small patch of P50 within a wide expanse of P.
2. One case of P50 (15-53-39) vs P75. In this location there were a few micro areas that from the ground could have looked like the denser portion of P50. Our decision was to classify this entire polygon P75 based on the scale of the P50 patches.
3. One case of P75 (27-52-39) vs P50. This site is in a large area of P50 that from the ground appears to have occasional patches of P75. EAS classified the entire area as P50 based on the scale of the P75 patches.
4. One case of DMS (15-52-39) vs P50. This site is in a large area of P50 that from the ground has occasional patches of P75 and DMS. EAS' decision was to classify the entire area as P50 based on the scale of the P75 and DMS patches.

5. Five cases of DMS (27-52-39, two in 5-54-39, 10-52-39, and 15-52-39) vs DM. In each of these discrepancies, ERG classified these areas as DMS, while we classified them as DM. EAS used the DM classification instead of DMS when individual trees or canopies were visible within the cover type on the 1"=300' aerials. Many of the areas that on the ground appear to be DMS appear to be DM on the aerial photographs. EAS was consistent in mapping these areas as DM. The differentiation between DMS and DM on the aerial signatures is somewhat arbitrary in many places.

In hindsight, it would have been preferable to establish the wildlife stations after the cover types had been mapped, so that potentially larger areas of "contiguous" habitat could have been sampled. Nonetheless, the extraordinarily patchy mosaic of *Melaleuca* densities will probably indicate that there is little difference in wildlife utilization of areas from 0% to 75% dense, as well as in DM and DMS, as long as the underlying prairie/marsh associations are still relatively intact.